



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HONOLULU

02 February 2015

Honorable Vice- Speaker John Mizuno
And
Honorable Representative Romeo Cachola
House of Representatives
28th Legislature, 2015
State of Hawaii

Dear Honorable Representatives:

With reference to House Bill No. 604 or the Sakada Bill, the Philippine Consulate General in Hawaii fully supports the bill as it will help commemorate the memory and sacrifices of the first Filipino *sakadas* in Hawaii. Together with the Filipino community in Hawaii we stand proud of the *sakadas'* contribution to Hawaii's history. We hope that the memory of these early Filipinos be honored by the present and future generations of Filipinos. The bill also symbolizes the friendship between the Filipinos and the people of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,


GINA A. JAMORALIN
Consul General

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 604

Sakada Day

Designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawai'i.



House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
February 2, 2015, 9 a.m., Conference Room 312

To: Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Chair; and Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Members: Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami,
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi,
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Justin H. Woodson,
Rep. Lauren Kalohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator
Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training
University of Hawai'i
Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity
2600 Campu Rd. QLCSS Rm. 414
Honolulu, HI 96822

LATE

Dear Rep. Romy Cachola, Chair; Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair; and Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, Principal Investigator for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART), which is a Community Network Program of the National Cancer Institute. AANCART was established to address cancer disparities among Asian Americans through research, education, training, and advocacy. I am happy to submit strong support for this bill.

AANCART is helping to build the capacity of Filipino community leaders, especially students, who aspire to become health professionals. Given all the scientific and medical advances in health care, Filipinos have a persistent and disproportionate burden of lower cancer screenings, and higher rates of cancer detected at late stages, resulting in higher cancer death rates. Lessons learned show that science and health insurance cannot save lives alone without the enriching knowledge and goodwill that underlies the respect for a people's history, social and political struggles, and contributions of their evolving culture, language, heritage and worldviews. Only then does healing take place, not only for the patient, but for families and communities in which we all live together. The designation of Sakada Day opens many opportunities to promote equity for Filipinos and other groups in our schools, work places, government offices, entertainment industry and more.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for the chance to express my support from a public health and social justice perspective.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma
Principal Investigator
AANCART Hawai'i

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 604

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Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Justin H. Woodson,
Rep. Lauren Kalohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Davelyn Quijano, President
Sinait National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii
c/o 91-241 Kaukolu Place, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Dear Honorable Rep. Romy Cachola, Chair; Honorable Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair; and
Honorable Committee Members:

I strongly support designating Dec. 20 each year as Sakada Day in Hawaii. I am speaking as
a private citizen.

My name is Davelyn Quijano, president of the Sinait National High School Alumni
Association of Hawaii. I also serve as the secretary of the Anak ti Sinait of Hawai'i
(Children of Sinait), and the Oahu Filipino Community Council. Our alumni association
prides itself in volunteerism both in Hawai'i and the Philippines, where we perpetuate our
culture, join in disaster relief efforts, finance medical missions to the Philippines, foster good
health through outreach programs to our Filipino community, empower our youth through
scholarship programs, offer aid to deceased members and their beneficiaries, and engage
network opportunities to contribute successfully to Hawaii's economy through
entrepreneurship. Our alumni association was established in 1995 and has grown to 60
members in Hawaii.

Like the majority of Filipinos in Hawaii today who are Ilocanos, descendants of the Ilocos
region, Sinait, Ilocos Norte is my birthplace. As my children were born in Hawaii, it is
important to establish a "Sakada Day". The younger generation needs inspiration and
knowledge of where they came from, in order for them to figure out who they are, what
their purpose is, and identify what gifts they possess in order to contribute to making Hawaii
a thriving part of their livelihood and legacy of humanitarianism for the benefit of all of
Hawai'i's diverse people.

I travel from Hawaii to the Philippines regularly. Sakada Day is essential to the roots of our
cultural ties and growing commercial transactions. Thank you for the opportunity to express
my full support of this bill.

Warmest regards,

Davelyn Quijano

ito3-George

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 12:18 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: espihawaii@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB604 on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM

LATE

HB604

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Deanna Espinas | Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights | Support | No |

Comments: I also serve on the Board of Directors for Hawaii's Plantation Village. Our purpose is to ensure that the experiences, lifestyles, struggles, sacrifices, innovations and contributions of our plantation forebearers are known, acknowledged, and visible as the cornerstones of hawaii's successful multicultural society. I am in strong support of this bill. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 604

House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
February 2, 2015, 9 a.m., Conference Room 312

To: Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Chair; and Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Members: Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami,
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi,
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Justin H. Woodson,
Rep. Lauren Kalohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Gene Ward
From: Jake Maegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League
Subject: Sakada Day~Designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawai'i.

LATE

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

In 1986 I had the honor to serve in the Thirteenth Legislature House of Representatives, 40th District. I chaired the 75th Anniversary Commission of Filipinos in Hawai'i, and served as a commissioner on the Filipino Centennial Celebration Commission from 2005-2006. The achievements and contributions of Filipinos in Hawai'i since 1906 have been well documented. But as we enter upon the 108th year of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Filipinos still have a long way to go to attain parity in society. By establishing Dec. 20 as Sakada Day in Hawai'i each year, the people of Hawai'i will have a clear metric upon which to gauge the progress of how Filipinos are contributing to the well-being of all Hawai'i nei. Is it mainly in service industry labor, as Sakadas were once relegated as entry level sugar plantation workers, where low wages, poor working conditions, unfair labor practices, and lack of job security made it hard for anyone to have a fair shot of bettering one's life then, as it is today?

Sakada Day will rectify this by providing Hawai'i's multi-ethnic communities, schools, businesses, work sites, and elected officials pause for historical reflection, political will, and social action. The outcome is to transform persistent generations of disproportionate numbers of under-utilized Filipinos and other under-represented groups within our own families, into leadership positions in systems of labor, education, health, housing, transportation, justice, and more, because these are what determine the daily outcomes of struggles and opportunities for not only Filipinos, but all who are still suffering from individual hopelessness and systemic oppression. Provisions of this bill can foster the spirit of inquiry, self awareness, sense of belonging, empathy, unity and reciprocity for the greater good.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and uplift Hawai'i's diverse people by establishing Sakada Day on Dec. 20 each year.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

LATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Chair

Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Monday, February 2, 2015; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 604
RELATING TO SAKADA DAY**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 604, which designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawaii.

This bill honors the *sakada*, or Filipino plantation workers, who came to Hawaii as contract laborers and helped to build Hawaii as a multicultural, diverse society with the hope of economic and social opportunity. The descendants of the many sakada who made Hawaii their home are today businessmen, educators, elected officials, and community and union leaders.

Filipino laborers were first brought to Hawaii in 1906, but the biggest wave of *sakada* arrived in 1946 on the S.S. Maunawili—6,000 of them from poor villages and farms in the Philippines, all of them seeking a better life. These laborers traveled across the Pacific Ocean under difficult conditions on the Maunawili, “packed like sardines” by one account. On board the ship were unionists who educated the workers about conditions on the plantations and the union. By the time the Filipino workers arrived in Hawaii, they were organized and ready to stand with the ILWU, their union.

The 6,000 *sakada* eagerly joined with other sugar workers on the plantations in what was to be called the Great Sugar Strike of 1946. Unlike other strikes which were organized by race, and thus failed, the 1946 strike united workers of all races, and the Filipino workers were at the forefront of the workers’ resolve for better wages and working conditions. After 79 days on strike, the ILWU was able to win economic advances but, more importantly, respect from the plantation owners and managers.

Without the courage and determination of the *sakada*, particularly the 6,000 who arrived in 1946, Hawaii today may be a far different community. We thank the *sakada* for their sacrifice and commitment and urge passage of H.B. 604 to designate December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 604

House Committee on Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
February 2, 2015, 9 a.m., Conference Room 312

To: Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Chair; and Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
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Rep. Lauren Kalohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Gene Ward

LATE

From: Jovanie de la Cruz, Chair, Board of Directors, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Subject: Sakada Day~Designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawai'i.

My name is Jovanie de la Cruz. As Chair of the Board of Directors for the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 604. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

We strongly believe that Sakada Day will foster goodwill and critical thinking among Hawai'i's citizens at all levels of society. Research shows that building the capacity for ethnic pride and diversity competency fosters improved school performance and a productive, versatile labor force. Making education relevant to a person's life is key to developing a positive identity, an ethical and compassionate character, and a foundation for civic engagement to uphold civil rights for all. The Coalition has passed resolutions to address disparities affecting our State related to health, education, labor issues for hotel, caregiver, service, and agricultural industries, immigrants, Filipino WWII veterans equity, and many more. Sakada Day is an important initiative to harness the history of our ancestors in order to build the capacity of a healthy, productive, and progressive State that can collaborate locally and globally to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Sakada Day is about celebrating lessons learned from Filipino history in order to be responsible and reasonable stakeholders and good stewards for the benefit of all in Hawai'i and beyond.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our support from the community. Your consideration for its passage is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Jovanie de la Cruz, Chair
Board of Directors
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

From: lindy aquino <lindyaquino@gmail.com>

To: <vmitestimonies@capitolhawaii.gov>

Cc:

Date: Sun, 1 Feb 2015 11:09:31 -1000

Subject: Fwd: SAKADA Day HB 604

SUBJECT: Testimony Written in Support of H.B. 604 - Sakada Day

DATE: February 1, 2015



FROM: Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus and Founding Director, Center for Philippine Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa

MY name is Belinda A. Aquino, Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where I was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and Founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies for 35 years before I retired on December 31, 2009.

I am wholeheartedly supporting H.B. 604 designating December 20 of every year as "Sakada Day." This is a welcome addition to the culturally rich and ethnically diverse history of our State of Hawaii. In fact the proposed Sakada Day is long overdue as Filipinos have continuously contributed for more than a century now to the growth and development of the State of Hawaii.

IT recognizes and honors the pioneering achievements and courage of the first Filipino sakadas, who were recruited from the Philippines by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association to work on the sugar plantations at the turn of the 20th century. They traveled thousands of miles from their home villages to undertake arduous physical work on the plantations to make a better life for their families back in the old country. They arrived in Honolulu on the S.S. Doric on December 20, 1906 and were transported to the Olaa Plantation on the Big Island.

A new day in the storied history of Hawaii had begun. These original sakadas and subsequent groups from the Philippines endured great physical and emotional stress in the plantations. Ten to twelve back-breaking labor in the canefields under a searing hot sun every day to earn a mere dollar-a-day wage was a subhuman condition. They experienced solitude, rootlessness, homelessness, the luna's wrath, and other forms of emotional hardships in the plantations as single men without their families to support them.

EVENTUALLY, the Filipino sakadas became the largest plantation workforce in Hawaii by the 1930s. Labor unrest began to escalate in the 1920s and the sakadas actively participated in various strikes and work stoppages on the plantations that continued through the 30s, 40s and even the 50s and 60s. The Filipinos became very much a part of this turbulent period in Hawaii's labor history.

IT is truly remarkable therefore that a special day in December is being proposed to institutionalize remembrance of the Sakada Past in Hawaii because without the sacrifice, perseverance and courage of the original sakadas, Hawaii and the Filipino community would not be what they are today.

NOW the largest ethnic group in Hawaii, the Filipino community has produced descendants who have reached the highest ranks in the state's political and social structure - such as the first Filipino governor not only in Hawaii but in America, the first speaker and senate president in the state legislature, the first county mayors, the first Justice on the state Supreme Court, the first judges on the various courts, the first doctors and other professionals, and so on. In fact Filipinos in Hawaii lead the nation and other parts of the world on major political, social, educational and economic indicators on the various Filipino international communities.

AS we recognize all these wonderful achievements of the Filipino community, it is good to remember with pride and honor the courage and determination of the pioneer 15 sakadas, who blazed the trail and overcome adversity and numerous hardships, so that the generations after them will continue to have a successful and equal place and a more decent life than they had in Hawaii's multiethnic and multicultural society.

THANK you for your attention.

ito3-George

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 1:53 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: jojemay@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB604 on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM

HB604

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for VMI on Feb 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| May Mizuno | Congress of Visayan Organizations | Support | No |

Comments: In behalf of Congress of Visayan Organizations, a statewide umbrella of all Visayan organizations in Hawaii, I would like to express our strong support for HB604 which will designate December 20 Sakada day in Hawaii. This is very important for us Filipinos as the history of Filipinos in Hawaii started from the Sakadas. It is also essential especially for our organizations and the youths to know the history of our roots. With that said, I strongly support HB604. Thank you for this opportunity. May Mizuno President Congress of Visayan Organizations

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 604

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Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Justin H. Woodson,
Rep. Lauren Kalohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: Sakada Day~Designates December 20 of each year as Sakada Day in Hawai'i.

My name is Rouel Velasco. I serve as Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA is happy to provide our strong support for designating December 20 of each year as Sakada Day. Hawai'i's public schools, UH system schools, and private schools can play a vital role to develop an informed generation of students and their families, who are committed to knowing one another's history, labor struggles, heritage, language, and more. Sakada Day is vital to goodwill and cooperation in our island communities, including our roots in the Philippines.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to support the establishment of Sakada Day.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco
Chair, NaFFAA Region 12



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

*Bea Ramos-Razon, RN,
FACDONA
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*Tessie Oculito, RN
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Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 604

House Committee

Veterans, Military, International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

February 2, 2015, 9 a.m., Conference Room 312

To: Rep. Romy M. Cachola, Chair; and Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Members: Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Rep. Takashi Ohno, Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI

LATE

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for this bill. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service.

We are proud to support this bill, which designates December 20 of each year to be Sakada Day. As health professionals with close ties between Hawai'i and the Philippines, we owe our opportunities to serve as global nurses to the first sakadas, who left the Philippines in 1906. Through the sakadas, we can learn lessons of perseverance and sacrifice for the greater good.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to encourage this bill's passage. Goodwill and greater understanding among Hawai'i's people and international neighbors will be promoted for everyone's benefits.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.